Appl. No.: 10/541,180

Reply to Office Action of March 21, 2006

Amendments to the Claims:

Please cancel claims 9, 11 and 16-18 with prejudice. The current listing of claims

will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A reusable sorbing coalescing agent facilitating the

separation of a non-aqueous phase from an aqueous phase consisting of a ragged-edge

particulate <u>self-cleaning</u> reusable material having substantially small uniform sized

particulate units.

2. (Original) The sorbing coalescing agent according to claim 1, wherein the

particulate reusable material includes a web and at least one of its web dimensions is in

the nanoscale range (10^{-9}m) .

3. (Original) The sorbing coalescing agent according to claim 1, wherein the

particulate reusable material includes substantially small uniform sized particulate units

of a size ranging from 1 µ to 3 cm.

4. (Original) The sorbing coalescing agent according to claim 3, wherein the

particulate reusable material includes substantially small uniform sized particulate units

of a size ranging from 10 μ to 1000 μ .

5. (Original) The sorbing coalescing agent according to claim 1, wherein the

particulate reusable material is an organophilic hydrophobic polarizable sorbing

coalescing agent.

6. (Original) The sorbing coalescing agent according to claim 5, wherein the

particulate reusable material is an organophilic hydrophobic sorbing coalescing agent

compatible with petroleum-based products.

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7. (Original) The sorbing coalescing agent according to claim 2, wherein the element of its web dimension in the nanoscale range (10⁻⁹m) is selected from the group consisting of the thickness of the particulate itself, the thickness of at least one ragged edge and combinations thereof.

8. (Original) The sorbing coalescing agent according to claim 2, wherein the ragged edges of the particulate reusable material include at least one filament extending outwardly from an edge of the web.

9. (Cancelled)

10. (Currently Amended) The sorbing coalescing agent according to elaim 8, wherein the element of its web dimension in the nanoscale range (10⁻⁹m) is selected from the group consisting of the thickness of the particulate itself, the size of the at least one filament, the thickness of at least one ragged edge and combinations thereof.

11. (Cancelled)

- 12. (Currently Amended) The sorbing coalescing agent according to claim 11 claim 2, wherein the particulate reusable material includes substantially small uniform sized particulate units of a size ranging from 1μ to 3 cm.
- 13. (Original) The sorbing coalescing agent according to claim 12, wherein the particulate reusable material includes substantially small uniform sized particulate units of a size ranging from 10 μ to 1000 μ .
- 14. (Currently Amended) The sorbing coalescing agent according to <u>claim 11 claim 2</u>, wherein the particulate reusable material is an organophilic hydrophobic polarizable sorbing coalescing agent.

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- 15. (Original) The sorbing coalescing agent according to claim 14, wherein the particulate reusable material is an organophilic hydrophobic sorbing coalescing agent compatible with petroleum-based products.
- 16. (Cancelled)
- 17. (Cancelled)
- 18. (Cancelled)